

WOMAN IN IOWA MAKES FARM PAY

Mrs. Fannie Klinck Tells How
She Runs 100 Acres.

CHICAGO.—Keeping house with nature is the farmer's joyous task.

Realization of exactly what this statement implies may prevent many heartaches among votaries of the back-to-the-land vision. Only those men and women who love nature, and with infinite patience can keep her watches with growing things and glory in the season's give and take, should enroll themselves in the ranks of agriculturists.

For those who fill these requirements the rewards are munificent—in health, strength, contentment and material wealth. By its inherent domesticity of the great out-of-doors, farming must be recorded as pre-eminently a woman's occupation.

In the fourth conference of the Woman's National Farm and Garden association, convening at the Morrison hotel, the lights of successful woman farmers of the United States have been lifted out from under their bushel.

Iowa Woman Sets Example.

Prominent in the ranks of these women is Mrs. Fannie M. Klinck of Clarksville, Iowa. Mrs. Klinck is conducting an experimental farm on the site of the old cabin where lived the pioneer, Clarkes for whom the town of Clarksville was named.

All of the work on the 100-acre farm occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Klinck is done by the latter except for what unsatisfactory assistance may be obtained from hired men. Mr. Klinck was reared as a city man, and has other duties that occupy his time. Mrs. Klinck's father owns and lives upon the adjoining farm, and as his age increases, much of the supervision of his place, too, devolves upon his daughter.

"The farm for women offers the finest of opportunities for those women who love nature and know her and who are not afraid of work," Mrs. Klinck said. "An eye for detail and a faculty for industry are essential. An indolent, slovenly, shiftless woman is the curse of any farm upon which she may come. There is less place for her there than there is for a drone in a hive."

Great Need Is Labor.

"I do field work day after day from seed time until harvest and I must say that I prefer it to the kitchen and housework that I must interrupt my daily labors out of doors to attend to. Labor, labor! that is the crying need of the farms. It is difficult to get men who will work properly and take an interest in what has to be done. I would be more than eager to welcome the woman farm laborer if I felt positive that she would be more efficient than the average 'hand' obtainable at present. Unfortunately, the average woman who comes out into the country and says she wants to work on a farm thinks that she is going to get a soft snap. This is far from the case. Farming is work."

"It may be, of course, that the women who will enlist in the proposed new service units will be animated by a spirit of patriotism that will induce them to consider that the welfare of every seed and plant and chicken, head of cattle and basket of fruit is the welfare of the country and as such their own vital need. When this idea is impressed on the mind of the farm laborer then we will have the ideal farm hand, and food conservation will be begun right."

Keeps Twenty Cattle.

As an earnest of Mrs. Klinck's first-hand knowledge of her subject, it must be borne in mind that of her 100-acre farm there are twenty acres in pasture, on which are kept twenty-nine head of cattle. This herd has the run of the farm when it is not under cultivation. The milk cows are limited to the few necessary to supply the family table with dairy products; the calves run with the cows and are sold later for beef.

The experimental product occupies several acres. Here is raised every variety of small grain obtainable. The object of this is self-education and research, put later to practical use as a correlator in Mrs. Klinck's work as a supply teacher in various schools and as a lecturer before farmers' institutes and granges. This is an excellent laboratory. As a result of crossing and re-crossing varieties and species Mrs. Klinck has a notable array of grains as well as ribbons and prizes won at fairs where she has exhibited. She scored a notable success at the Soil Products exposition held in Peoria in September.

The remainder of the farm is given over to the cultivation of corn, oats and clover—in rotation. From this, Mrs. Klinck derives the major portion of her income.

Must Know the Business.

"My own experience on the farm has taught me that women can succeed as farmers," Mrs. Klinck said. "Of course, they must know the business, like any other. I was reared on the farm, as my mother had been before me, and from the start was taught what the farm meant. As a little girl my mother instilled in my mind the knowledge that honest labor is a splendid thing and that to raise a good garden is a glory of which any human being may be proud."

"The accusation is made that farmers are niggardly with comforts for themselves, while they lavish wonderful barns and the like upon their live stock. This is an erroneous idea. The farmer's wife—the genuine farm woman, has the instinctive ground-in knowledge that her live stock and her crops are the same as her money in the bank. She knows she must guard them as well. The crops may look good in the ground. But it is a long way from a potato in the ground to the dollar in the bank that the farmer hopes to have from his crop before the snow falls. The pigs in their sties, the cattle in the barn, represent to the farmer's wife her old age pension, and her children's future."

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Many a farmer has today the money in the bank that would enable him to put a modern plumbing system in his home, but nine out of ten farmers' wives would sensibly enough stand aghast at putting in a miniature municipal waterworks system for merely one family.

Rewards Are Great.

"There are great rewards in the farmer's life. For those who appreciate the beauties of sunsets, pink dawns, birds and flowers, trees, the rain at its softest and mistiest and the constant unfolding of the mysteries of growth and evolution, life on the farm brings a peace and delight that is known no place else on earth. The farmer has always his living, and that living is the environment that is nearest of all to God."

Mrs. Klinck is a splendid evidence of what farm life can do for a woman. As rainy day work she weaves exquisite baskets from rye straw, models from the clay subsoil found on her farm and adds to her income from sale of these. Tenerife lace is another of her accomplishments. At the time the war began she was commissioned to journey to Madeira to purchase this needlecraft for further distribution here as her judgment was considered expert in this line.

She is a fine-looking woman, well above medium height, with a great quantity of silky brown hair, dark eyes, clear complexion and a smile that has been borrowed from the peaceful fields.

"It took me seven years to raise an

ear of corn from maize seed," Mrs. Klinck says. "I am wondering how many more it will take to develop a prize winner from this source. I might be discouraged if I didn't remember Jacob. It took him fourteen to win his heart's desire."

At Camp Upton, down Paphank and Moriches way on Long Island, men of many differing national origins, of all trades and professions, and representing every phase of social life, are being molded into soldiers. Already the signs are abundant and convincing that these men now forming the Seventy-seventh division of the National army drawn from New York state will become a fighting unit that will live in our history. It is true to call America the melting pot of the world, but it is a fact that these men at Upton are the most cosmopolitan lot to be found in any camp in the country. In this Long Island camp, he found representatives of every blood that this country has to build with. In the matter, too, of financial and social circumstances the same comprehensive showing is made. In one of the infantry regiments is a young man who is not accused of ever having told before; his income is around half a million dollars a year. With him labor Izy Beckholt, who has sometimes earned as much as \$22 a week as a garment maker; Joe Cuccolo, whose civilian wage as a bootblack was \$7 a week, board and lodging add-

ed and Joe Brower, longshoreman at union rates. Among any five thousand of these soldiers could be found men capable of practicing any profession mentioned, or able to make good in any form of manual endeavor.

Through all of these thousands of men run a common will and a common spirit. They are Americans, and at last every one of them knows it. With but few exceptions they are glad to be just where they are and are filled with quiet, good-humored resolve to learn the new business of soldiering and practice it with every ounce of resolution that can be summoned.

Of all characteristics observed in going through the camp, good humor is the most evident; next in evidence is patience with new and trying work, accompanied by only gradual uniforming and equipping. Third may be found a devil-may-care attitude toward whatever the future may hold in store. Courtesy is markedly present in these spirited young fellows. Even those who know little English, or who, speaking a sort of English, are yet but little acquainted with graceful phrase, display all desire to be polite and considerate toward comrade and stranger.

Major-General J. Franklin Bell has declared that he wants singing men, because a singing army is a fighting army. As to singing, the division commander has his wish. These are song-loving men. Snatches of song and bursts of chorus come through open

barrack windows. By night the men gather at the Y. M. C. A. tents and sing; those who are not found there are in the barracks regaling themselves and their fellows with the latest vocal things. Wise company commanders

have already bought and installed pianos, with the idea that the men will later repay them out of company funds. Rag-time, patriotic airs and the popular classics of all lands float out in the air, for clever amateur pianists are not lacking.—Leslie.

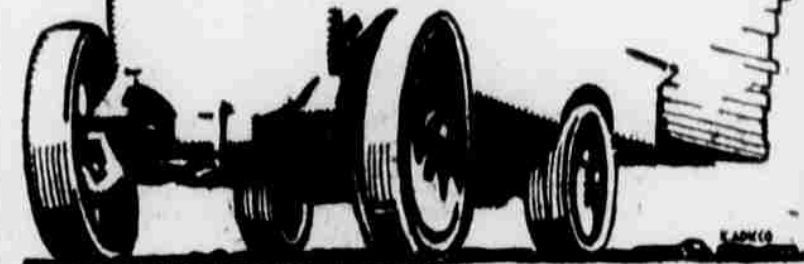
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